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The EXAMINER.

From Friday March 19, to Monday March 22, 1713.

——Stetimus tela aſpera contra,
Contulimuſq; manus—————— Virgil.

THIS *Fifth Volume* of *Examiners* is drawing to a Concluſion; and will, in all Probability, be the laſt that comes out under this formidable and invidious Title. For I have reaſon to hope, that many of thoſe Cauſes will be removed, which at firſt engag'd me in this Undertaking; and when all the neceſſary Proviſion ſhall be made, towards compleating the great Work of our Security and Welfare; when *Peace at home* ſhall be firmly Eſtabliſh'd, and the remaining Corruptions of former Miſmanagement are effectually healed and removed; when *Trade* is throughly underſtood and ſetled; when the Arts of *Peace* have civiliz'd Men's Minds, and reſtor'd Candour and Humanity among us; when *Faction* is reduc'd to the Obedience of the *Law*, and Publick Good ſuperſedes the narrow Intereſts and Bigotry of *Parties*, then it will be high time to ſhut up all Diſputes of this Nature, and to promote no other Controverſy for the future, but who ſhall be moſt Zealous for the Conſtitution in Church and State, and who ſhall excel among our Fellow-Subjects, in mutual Candour, Humanity, and cordial Affection towards each other. When the *Preſs* is Purg'd and Reform'd, and brought back to its firſt Inſtitution, by being wholly Dedicated to uſeful Knowledge and Polite Literature, I ſhall enjoy a ſenſible Pleaſure in ſeeing this *Paper* become uſeleſs and unneceſſary; which was originally intended as an Antidote againſt that weekly Venom, which hath been ſo liberally diſpens'd among us; and to extinguiſh thoſe Firebrands and hot burning Coals, which the *Bouteſeus* of the *Preſs* have ſcatter'd abroad in abundance. I ſhall be glad to have the *Polemick* give way to the *Hiſtorian*, and to ſee all our future Happineſs and Glory, the Tranſactions and Occurrences of a great and wiſe People, reduced to unconteſted *Fact* and plain *Narrative*; and no room left for Party-Diſputes, and the Iniquity and Perverſeneſs of endleſs Clamour and Contradiction. But in the mean time, to take off all Imputations that may lie againſt this *Paper*, and to render the Malice of a *Faction* (whoſe Enmity I wiſh to provoke ſo long as they ſtand out againſt the Government) entirely Groundleſs and inexcuſable, the Publick may ſhortly expect to ſee the *Examiners* appear in *another Garb* and *Character*, that no Body may be able to Object, they were written only to ſerve a preſent Turn, or to humour a reigning Frenzy, as ſome have boldly affirm'd: For whatever Period of Time theſe Works ſhall reach to, the Authors may be perfectly unconcern'd: Since Time hath been their beſt Friend, by atteſting their ſeveral Facts, and confirming almoſt every thing that was advanc'd in them, for the common Good. And as to the Principles and Arguments therein contain'd, they are not like the *Chimæra's* and *Abſurdities* ſtarted by the Adverſary, the Engins of Diſcord and Miſchief, the Products of a fairy Syſtem, founded upon Chance, and liable to a Thouſand Alterations; but will bear the Light at all Times, and in all Places, ſo long as it ſhall be Lawful and Meritorious to Write and Argue on the Side of the *Church* of *England* and a *Britiſh Conſtitution*.

It is very true, that as I have ſtated the Caſe of my own Country, many Things remain to be done, for the Compleating our Happineſs, that require Time and Opportunity, Caution and Courage, indefatigable Induſtry and Application. Great and unforeſeen Difficulties will ariſe; and tho' the Violence of Party muſt of neceſſity abate, yet her laſt Efforts will produce a reſolute and ſtrenuous Oppoſition. But when I conſider on the other hand, what Great Men are at the Helm; and with what faithful and vigilant Guardians the Publick Liberties are entruſted; when I reflect upon the many Dangers they have ſurmounted, and the many Difficulties they have waded through, which their Enemies declar'd to be inſuperable, and inceſſantly labour'd to make them ſo; the Proſpect of our perfect Happineſs draws nearer to my view, and the Miſts and thick Darkneſs of Diſcord and *Faction* begin to vaniſh from the extream Parts of our *Hemiſphere*, and to leave an uninterrupted Sunſhine and ſerene Seaſon behind them. The *Increaſing Majority* of Loyal and Dutiful Subjects have no reaſon to Deſpair, but that the ſame worthy Patriots, whoſe Counſels have contributed towards the Repoſe and Safety of diſtant Nations, and States independent of their Power, tho' not of their Wiſdom; who have aſſiſted in the *Compleat Settlement of Europe*, and have improved a *Conſuming War* into a *Safe*, *Honourable*, *Advantageous*, and *Laſting Peace*; will be much more Induſtrious, and therefore, we hope, at leaſt equally ſucceſsful, in procuring and eſtabliſhing the entire Welfare of their own Country; in eaſing our Burdens, and refreſhing us with Plenty and Tranquility; in turning the Diſorders of a reſtly *Faction* to our Advantage, and bringing Order and Unanimity out of *Party-Rage* and Confuſion. This Work, ſo Good in it ſelf, hath been wonderfully forwarded and promoted, by the Co-operations of an All-wiſe and Benign *Providence*. Moſt of thoſe Meaſures, which were taken to obſtruct it, have contributed in a remarkable manner to its Succeſs; and all the ſubtle and violent Methods, that have hitherto been employ'd in dividing our Governors, and diſconcerting their Management, have not only proved ineffectual, but been of great uſe in Cementing the Alliance, that is between them, and by rendring their Obligations to Concord and Amity, more firm and inviolable.

The ſame Pleaſure returns with Advantage upon me, which gave me an Opportunity ſome Years ago, to Congratulate with my Fellow-Subjects, upon the entertaining Proſpect of Affairs, at the Opening of the *Laſt Parliament*. I ſee the *Throne* ſurrounded by *Faithful Counſellors*, who have guarded the Prerogative from Domeſtick Inſults and Foreign Dependence; who have made *Europe* do Homage to *Great Britain*; who have preſerv'd the Character of *Deliverers* in Conjunction with that of *Subjects*, and approach'd no nearer the Royal Dignity, than was neceſſary to its ſupport; who, under GOD and *Her Maj*——, have been the Inſtruments of procuring a *Peace*, more valuable than a Thouſand Victories, tho' the Spoil had been all our own; have bound up the Bleeding Veins of many Nations, heal'd the lingring deſperate Conſumption of their own Country, reviv'd the drooping Spirits of the *Church of England*, and ſecur'd the *Proteſtant Succeſſion* in ſuch a manner, that *Faction* and Diſcord, its laſt and moſt formidable Enemies, ſhall never be able to render that Settlement uncertain and Precarious. I ſee this *Miniſtry* fix'd in the

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poſſeſſion of their Power, becauſe it depends upon the Royal Favour and Wiſdom; and exerting that Power, which they poſſeſs at the Expence of their own Eaſe and Quiet, for the Service and Welfare of their Country; to which, their paſt Conduct convinces us, that they are inſeparably United. I ſee a *People* congratulating each other in their mutual Happineſs, under ſuch Leaders, who have no Intereſt diſtinct from the Publick; who owe their Greatneſs in a great meaſure to the Liberties they have reſtor'd, and will therefore be always moſt careful and zealous to preſerve. I ſee a *Senate*, in which all the Virtues, that can Adorn and Advance a Government, are happily amaſs'd together, for the Uſe of thoſe they Repreſent, and to the Honour of a numerous Body of Patriots, with whom are ſafely depoſited the Hopes and Expectations of our People. I ſee a *Gentleman* in the *Chair*, who recommended his *Excellent Predeceſſor* to that important Poſt, and is ſo truly Worthy to ſucceed him. A *Gentleman*, whoſe unſhaken Loyalty and Fidelity to the Crown, whoſe unalterable Love of the Church, and reſolute Adherence to the Rights of the Subject, whoſe conſummate Knowledge of our Laws and Conſtitution, great Eloquence, clear Judgment, and inviolable Integrity, are confeſs'd and acknowledg'd by all; even by thoſe, who ſtand in Awe of his many rare and excellent Qualifications. If I enlarge my View, and look forward to remote Bleſſings, I ſee *Ireland* triumphing over the ſcatter'd Remains of a Routed *Faction*, and ſtrengthning Her Self in the mutual Agreement of *Nobles*, *Prelates*, and *uncorrupted Commons*. I ſee *Her* happy under an Adminiſtration, where whatever can adorn the *Bench*, the *Cabinet*, and *Mitre*, is the Qualification of Her preſent Governors; from whom every thing may be expected, that will conduce to Her future Happineſs and Tranquility. In *Scotland*, I ſee our *Brethren* made eaſie in the Enjoyment of thoſe mutual Bleſſings and Advantages, and that reciprocal Strength and Security, communicated to both of us, by a *happy Incident*, which was *the Deſire of the Queen's Heart*, and is the *Glory of* Her *Reign*. By the Characters of thoſe, with whom they have entruſted their Share of the Legiſlature, I am able form great and adequate Ideas of the Steddineſs, Honour, Wiſdom, Loyalty, and innate Bravery of that People. Where now, amidſt ſo Pleaſant and Entertaining a Proſpect, is there any room for Fear or Jealouſie, as if it were ſtill in the Power, either of Foreign or Domeſtick Enemies, to ſhock ſo beautiful a Syſtem, or to remove the Foundations, upon which it ſtands? Far be it from me, to encourage a ſupine Tameneſs and careleſs Security on the one Hand, or to Dream and Propheſy of Imaginary Dangers on the other: For whilſt Wiſdom is at the Helm, and Unity its inſeparable Companion, I have that Confidence in the Powers above, as to believe our *Conſtitution* to be as ſafe in its preſent Circumſtances, as our *Iſland* is in its *Situation*.

I am proud of owning, that moſt of my Attempts of this kind, in the way of *Panegyrick*, have expoſed me to the little Bickerings and Scurrilities of ſome People, who if they can but recite a few ſtale Things, that have been ſaid againſt *Servile Flattery*, *Making of Court*, *Fawning and Careſſing great Men with fulſome Praiſes and Declamations*, imagine they are preſently at liberty to ram this Charge down every good Subject's Mouth, who is about to open it in Expreſſions of Duty and Gratitude. But as I have liv'd to ſee a vaſt difference in *Courts*, ſo I do not think, they have left me the Power of ſaying a worſe Thing of them, than what they imply by their Conduct; when they appear to be under a great deal of Pain at any Returns of Thankfulneſs and Congratulation, which are made by their Fellow-Subjects to the Government, for the many Benefits they enjoy under it. The Truth is, the Controverſy of theſe People with the *Miniſtry*, is kept up by the moſt abſurd Arguments, and in a way of Reaſoning, that favours almoſt of as much Stupidity as Malice. They have pick'd up a few good Principles from the *Books* and *Pamphlets* forerunning the *Revolution*, in favour of *Liberty*, *Property*, and the *Rights of the Subject*; and againſt *Tyranny*, *Arbitrary Power*, and *Male-Adminiſtration*: All which, without Fear or Conſcience, they Boldly and Sottiſhly advance againſt the Powers in Being, without offering at the leaſt Proof or Overt-act, which does not vaſtly redound to their Honour; and at a time, when they and their Leaders remain laſting Monuments of the Gentleneſs and Lenity of their Superiors. But for fear this Scheme ſhould not be ſufficient to do their Work, and to draw in more Followers, they have grafted their Politicks upon the *Republican Plan*, and have corrupted theſe *good Principles* with a mixture of thoſe wild levelling Notions, which, by the Experience of their Anceſtors, never fail'd to anſwer their Ends, by ſubjecting all Government to Themſelves, and keeping every Power under, that carries with it the leaſt Shadow of *Monarchy*. In this Cauſe I have diſtinguiſhed my ſelf; and have labour'd to ſet theſe Matters in a true Light, that the few weak and deluded People among my Fellow Subjects, might not become Wretched by their own Conſent, nor be led aſtray to abuſe their *Liberty* to the Prejudice of their *Intereſt* and *Underſtanding*. The ſeveral Anſwers (now ſwoln to a prodigious Bulk) that have been given to all this, do partly conſiſt of heavy Recitals of the abovementioned *Principles*, Ill-tim'd and Miſapply'd; and partly of *Billingſgate*, and *hard Names* in Rows and Catalogues; in the Choice of which I cannot but applaud their Judgment, ſince their Cauſe is too bad to deſerve any other Arguments.

As to thoſe *Hotſpurs* and *Drawncanſirs* of the *Faction*, who perſiſt in their Reſolutions to annoy the *Miniſtry* and diſturb the Government; ſo long as I hold the Pen, I ſhall purſue them, either to a downfall of their Confederacy, or to a hearty and ſincere Reformation. But for ſuch of the *Whigs*, however they are called ſo, either by themſelves or others, who really mean well, and intend the Peace and Safety of *Great Britain*, and the Good and Welfare of Poſterity, tho' perhaps they may differ with us about the *Means*; I can ſee no reaſon in the World, why they ſhould look upon me as their Enemy, or treat this *Paper* with ill Nature and Averſion. I have labour'd all I could to ſeparate them from thoſe Reprobates, who are a Scandal to their Name and Profeſſion, leſt they Involve themſelves in the ſame Ruin. I have endeavour'd to compound with them for their Principles in the Reign of King *Charles* II. I have ſhew'd them how far they are fallen from all Pretenſions to Purity; by what falſe Promiſes and abominable Falſhoods they have been hitherto led aſtray and deluded, even to a degree of Mockery and Contempt. Time has aſſiſted in the Diſcovery; and expoſed the Characters of their *New Leaders* and *Patriots*. I have tried to regulate the Paſſions and Prejudices of others, unjuſtly conceiv'd againſt them; and have not omitted to warn even thoſe, who *Diſſent* from the *Eſtabliſh'd Church*, of the Dangers they are contriving againſt Themſelves, and to ſet their true Intereſt before them. I have ſhew'd theſe People, that *Moderation* is ſometimes the Duty of Subjects as well as Superiors; and that the Queſtion is not now, Whether *This Peace*, or *This Miniſtry*? But whether *Any Peace*? Or, *Any Government*? I have prov'd the Danger of a *Popiſh Succeſſor* to be mere *Teazing*, and have given ſufficient Notice, that repeated Attempts to Corrupt a Loyal People, may at laſt turn upon the Heads of the Aggreſſors. In all this, I have been their faithful Friend and Counſellor; and I know I cannot uſe them worſe, than to deliver them over to thoſe wretched Advocates for their Cauſe, who will Root every good Principle out of their Minds, and Plant in their ſtead Briars and Thorns, Weeds and Poyſonous Herbs; the Seeds of Sedition and *Spirit of Rebellion*.

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